

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. István Bata, the Hungarian Minister of Defense, has often been reported to be of Czechoslovak origin; this is reportedly in error since he seems definitely to be of Hungarian origin. He was born in a village of Fejer (sic) in the Transdanubian region of Hungary.
2. He became a streetcar conductor in the 30th District of Budapest when he was a young man. He was a member of his trade union, which in those days was under the control of the Social Democrats, and also took part in the activities of the clandestine Communist Party without being too much in the foreground or taking too many risks. He had a minor position in the Communist Party in 1944.
3. After the war he was Party Secretary in a textile factory for a short while but in 1946 he was appointed to the Central Office of the Party and to the Officers' Academy. He proved to be a success at the academy and finished his studies with high marks. He was afterwards sent to the Soviet Union to complete his studies. He returned from Moscow in 1949 as a colonel and was appointed to take over the political section of the Defense Ministry. On 1 January 1950 he was made a general and in December of the same year a lieutenant-general. He was then also made a staff-officer. In July 1953 he was made Minister of National Defense in the government of Imre NAGY, which post he holds at present.
4. Until the end of 1953 he held also the office of Chief of Staff but before the end of the year he appointed General Székely (fnu) as Chief of Staff. On 22 October 1954 he was appointed Colonel General, the only such appointment in the Hungarian Army.
5. He retains important positions in the Communist Party. He is member of the Central Committee and supplementary member of the Politbureau. In the hierarchy of the Communist Party he is considered the tenth most important member (as first supplementary member after the nine regular members).
6. Since 1949 he is Member of Parliament as deputy for the Fejer area. He has travelled often to the Soviet Union and other satellite states. In May 1955 was a member of the Warsaw Conference.

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